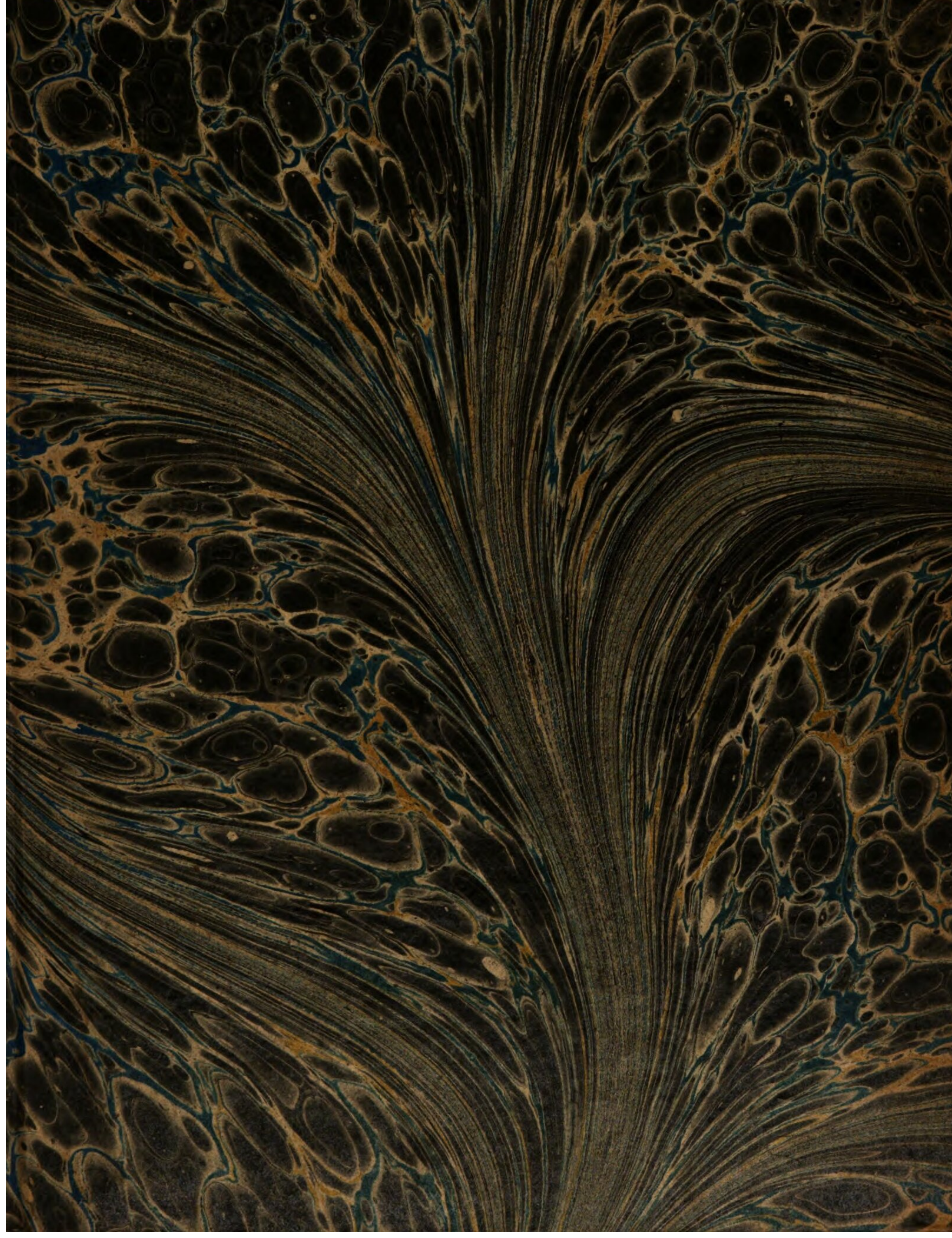




Mad. med. 464

Med.

Nat. med. 464.

Hill. 139.

V I R T U E S
O F
BRITISH HERBS.

R

By D^R H I L L.

1771.

THE HISTORY

OF

BRITISH HERBS.

BY DR. HILL.

1774.

V I R T U E S
O F
BRITISH HERBS.

WITH THEIR
HISTORY, and FIGURES,
And an Account of the DISEASES they will cure;

C O N T A I N I N G,

R CURES—Of CONSUMPTIONS by COLTSFOOT Tea;
Of HECTIC FEVERS by the DAISY;
Of COLICS by Leaves of CHAMOMILE;
Of AGUES by its Flowers:

And a CASE, of the HOOPING-COUGH, cured by a Tea
of the fresh Root of ELECAMpane.

CURES—Of the GRAVEL by a Tea of GOLDEN-ROD;
Of the SCURVY by EUPATORIUM;
Of the PILES by YARROW;

An Account of the eminent Virtues of PETASITE Root in PESTILEN-
TIAL and all other FEVERS, and the PLAGUE itself:

Of TANZY for the WORMS;
Of CONSOUND as a VULNERARY;

And an Instance of a STOMACH-COMPLAINT cured by a Tea of the Flowers
of SWEET FEVERFEW.

By JOHN HILL, M. D.
MEMBER of the IMPERIAL ACADEMY.

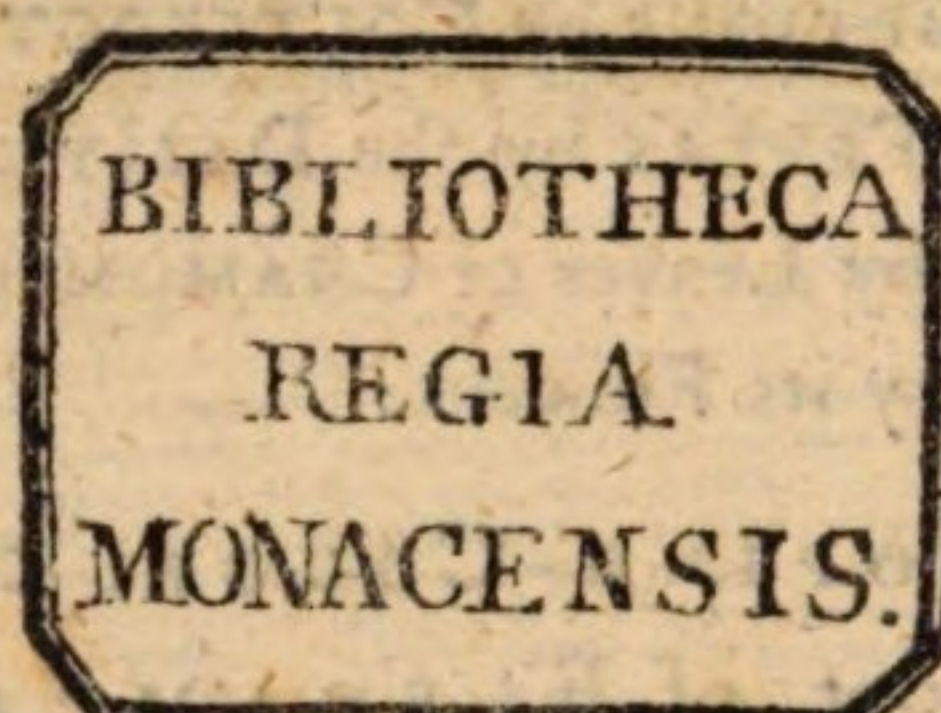
L O N D O N:

Printed for R. BALDWIN; J. RIDLEY; J. NOURSE; DILLY;
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HOOKHAM; DONALDSON; GARDNER; BLADON; HOOPER;
WHEBLE, and PEARCE.

M,DCC,LXXII.

VIRGIL
OF
BRITISH HERBS

WITH THEIR
HISTORIES, and FIGURES
And an Account of the Diseases they will cure;



CURIES—Of the Gravel, per T. de Golden-Rod;
Of the Scurvy, per Eupatorium;
Of the Piles, per Yarrow;
An Account of the various Virtues of the Plantain;
Of Tansy for the Worms;
Of Comfrey as a Vulnerary;
And an Index of a German Compendium, and per T. de Golden-Rod;
of Sweet Tansy.

BY JOHN HILL, M.D.
Member of the Imperial Academy.

L O N D O N :

Printed for R. Baldwin, J. Roberts, J. Widdowes, Dilly;
T. Hecart, R. Elmsley, J. Cammiller, Milsam, Rowland;
Hodgkiss, Dunscombe, Gassner, H. Alden, Hecart;
Went, and Trench.
MDCCLXXII.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Author having read a great deal, and seen something, of the Virtues of Plants of our own Growth, intends here, to the best of his abilities, to be useful: recounting all that is justly attributed to these Plants by respected Authors; and confirming, by authentic cases, whatever has been repeated within his own experience.

Having lately written a History of the British Plants in a succinct manner, and in the Latin language; intended principally for the use of

Physicians, he proposes here to deliver the Accounts of their Virtues, and Rules for administering them ; fitted for general service, and in our own tongue : and to lay down the whole more at large, than was needful to those who were already acquainted with the practice of Physic.

The first care will be to acquaint the Reader perfectly with the Plant that is recommended to be used : and to prevent all occasion of error, a Figure and History will be given, not only of the right kind, but of all others of the same Name, and general Nature ; which might be mistaken for it ; tho' they have no particular virtue, or perhaps have even contrary qualities.

Next, the Disease in which the Herb, thus known with certainty, may be serviceable, will be so explained, that all error in that article may be also avoided.

And

And the last care will be to direct in what manner the salutary Plant may best be used in families.

Beside the English Name of every Herb, there is given the Latin one : and this, it is earnestly recommended to all persons, to accustom themselves to use. There is great and valuable knowledge easily to be acquired on this subject; and it should be propagated universally : but this way alone that can be done.

The English Names of Herbs are equivocal ; the same word is often used by our authors as a Name for many different Plants : but in the Latin all is certain. As our own Names can be only understood in our own country ; when we use a Latin one the whole world knows what we speak of : and by the arrangement here, (when the Tables of Method relating to the whole are published,) as all Plants of a like kind are placed together, and their distinguishing characters are given, any will be found with ease.

Lungwort is equally the English Name of a kind of *Hawkweed*, of a sort of *Moss*, and of a Plant approaching to the nature of *Hound's-tongue*: now when an Herb is directed under that Name, no one can tell which of all these is meant. In Latin their Names are as different as their Nature; and in using those, there can be no mistake. A thousand instances of like kind might be produced: but one is as good as a thousand.

It will be happy, if, by the same means, the knowledge of Plants also become more general. The study of them is pleasant; and the exercise of it healthful. He who seeks the Herb for his cure; will often find it half effected by the walk: and when he is acquainted with the useful kinds, he may be more peoples, beside his own, Physician.

This knowledge is not to be sought in the old Herbals; they contain but a small part
of

of it : and what they hold is locked up in obscurity. They are excessive in their praises : and in saying too much ; they say nothing. All virtues are, in a manner, attributed to all Plants ; and 'tis the skill alone of a Physician that can separate, (in those that have any) which is the true. Turn to the Herbals of Gerard Parkinson, or the more ancient Turner, and you shall find, in many instances, virtues of the most exalted kind related of Herbs, which, if you were to eat daily as fallads, would cause no alteration in the body.

But we are not to conclude from this, that Herbs do not possess real virtues. Very many of them do ; and of kinds so eminent, that physic would be but a poor art without them. To distinguish these, and to teach persons not bred to physic how to apply them, is the good intended in this Publication : and even beyond the bounds of written lessons, such opportunities, as the Author of it has to promote this purposed utility, will never be withheld from any.

If

If any one entertains a doubt concerning the Plant he would use, after comparing it with the Figure and Description, the Gardener at *Bayswater* shall give a sample of it, for asking : and all Persons may command the farther Opinion and Directions of the Author when they please.

St. James's Street,
Nov. 3, 1771.

J. HILL.

VIRTUES

V I R T U E S
O F
B R I T I S H H E R B S.

H E R B S
Which have a radiated Flower ; growing
in a divided Cup.

I. O T H O N N A.
S E G G R O M.

Plate 1.

The Cup is deeply divided, into a number of
long, flat Teeth.

I. O T H O N-

1. OTHONNA INTEGRIFOLIA.

MOUNTAIN RAGWORT.

Plate 1. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are undivided.

This is a Weed of our high Pasture Grounds; but not common: it scarce exceeds eight Inches in height; but it grows upright; and has no Branches.

The Leaves are pale, thick, and downy.

The Flowers are of a light yellow; they grow in a Cluster at the Top of the Stalk, and have a Circle of narrow Leaves under them.

They blow in July.

Beside the Virtues which are known in Plants; it will be useful to give Cautions of their Danger. Careful farmers say this hurts their sheep: that their wool grows loose on eating it. Taken inwardly it is an acrid, and a dangerous purge. There is a kind, scarce differing from this, which manifests the same ill qualities, in Switzerland.

We

Character Genericus



1
Othonna integrifolia
Mountain Ragwort.

2
Othonna palustris
Marsh Flebane



March 11th 1841

John H. R. H. H. H.

We have in this, and the succeeding Plant, a striking instance of the value of Latin names. Othonna, or Cineraria, belongs to both these ; and each has, under these names, a just distinction by its second term ; the one by Integrifolia, and the other by Palustris. The name Othonna belongs to no British Plant beside these two ; and will be understood, not only here, but in all nations : Whereas the Term Seggrom, which is distinctly and truly the name of these Plants, is in our language applied also to the common Ragwort, an Herb of our Pastures, and to Groundsell, a Weed of our Gardens : and, to encrease the confusion, it is, in common speaking, not given to either of these two ; for custom calls one of these Ragwort, and the other Fleabane. Many words would be needful to explain these equivocal expressions, if used in directing the Plants for Medicine ; and perhaps, after all, it would not be done well : but the Latin name removes all doubt at once : it belongs to nothing else, and it is known universally ; nor will any

future innovation, however supported, change it in the judicious mind ; or prevent the Plant's being distinctly and perfectly known, by all persons, under this denomination.

2. OTHONNA PALUSTRIS.

MARSH FLEABANE.

Plate 1. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are deeply cut.

This is an inhabitant of our marshes, toward the sea : a perennial Plant.

It grows to a Yard high, but with few Branches.

The Leaves are of a fresh green ; very smooth, and delicate.

The Flowers are yellow, large, and not unhandsome.

They blow in August.

Its qualities too much resemble those of the preceding

preceding kind. Cattle, brought from other places, into some lands belonging to myself, near Whitlesea, in the Isle of Ely, have fallen into diseases on eating it: Those bred where it grows are observed not to touch it.

H E R B S

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a Cup, formed of one row of distinct Scales.

1. B I D E N S.

HEMP AGRIMONY.

Plate 2.

The Scales which compose the Cup are hollowed.

1. B I D E N S C E R N U A.

DROOPING HEMP AGRIMONY.

Plate 2. Fig. 1.

The Leaves embrace the Stalk at their base.

This

This is a common Plant about the ditches in Ireland : but it is scarce with us.

It has a branching reddish Stalk of about two Feet high.

The Leaves are of a deep, dull green, and smooth.

The Flowers are of a dead yellow : they hang their heads ; but the Tufts of Seed that follow stand upright.

It is an Annual ; it flowers in July, and lasts till the frost kills it.

This is one of the very many British Plants, concerning the Virtues of which we are perfectly ignorant. No one has yet tried it : but there are reasons to suppose its qualities are eminent. Cattle are not fond of it. This often is a mark of great medicinal virtues ; as well as sometimes of mischievous powers.

The smell is strong, and singular ; the taste is sharp, and biting, with a little bitterness.

There

There is a Plant, of Ceylon, called *Acemella*, a kind of *Verbesina*, distinguished beyond all things in the cure of the Gravel. This has its very taste and smell, and flavour; and Chymistry has shewn their near resemblance: A careful successor of *Nebelius* made this trial; and 'tis pity some one has not, in like manner, examined into its qualities in medicine. 'Tis one of the Herbs to be recommended to the practising Physicians; and will not want its place among those hereafter to be examined, by the Author of these observations.

If there could want more proof of the propriety, nay the necessity, of speaking of Plants under their Latin names, we have another here before us. This Herb is here recommended to the practisers of physic, for trial, in a great and terrible, and yet a very common disease: now if we should have given it only its English name, *Hemp Agrimony*, that is also the name of the herb *Eupatorium*, a Plant as different from this as two things well can be from one another; in taste,

in smell, and virtues, as well as in its form :
for this other Herb, called also Hemp Agri-
mony in English, is a purge.

Two persons, in two places, using those dif-
ferent Herbs under the same name, could never
confirm, or so much as believe, each other's
accounts : and there is no other way to truth
in medicine, but by these mutual trials : But
when we call the Herb by its distinct Latin
name, Bidens, it is impossible this error should
have place ; or any other, when we apply far-
ther to its second name, and its Description,
and Figure here.

2. T U S S I L A G O.

C O L T S F O O T.

Plate 2.

The Scales which compose the Cup are flat.

1. T U S S I-



Character Genericus



Character Genericus



Tussilago Farfara.

Common Coltsfoot.



Bidens Cernua.

Drooping Hemp Agrimony.



1. TUSSILAGO FARFARA.

COMMON COLTSFOOT.

Plate 2. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are hearted.

This low Herb spreads its Root in damp and clayey grounds; from which the flowers rise early in Spring, before the Leaves appear; and fade, and are quite gone by that time these have attained their natural size: a thing that looked so singular to our ancestors, they called the Plant, *The Son before the Father*.

The Stalk is about seven Inches high, leafless, but hung about with skinny films; and on its top there stands only one Flower.

The Leaves, which are in their perfection when this part is quite gone, are roundish, and notched; as broad as one's hand; of a pale green; white and downy underneath; and of a tough, firm substance.

The Flower is lemon-coloured; and large.

The Root is perennial; and the Leaves are to be had till Winter. These are the part which contain its great virtue: they have a soft and mucilaginous, but somewhat bitter taste.

They are good in the Gravel, and Inflammations of the Kidneys; but their great virtue is in diseases of the Breast; in Asthmas particularly; and in Consumptions. The best way of taking Coltsfoot is in decoction; for it does not so fully or well communicate its virtues to spirit. The way to have them best of all for use is this:

Clip small a quantity of the Leaves fresh gathered; put them into an earthen pipkin, and pour upon them as much boiling water as will cover them. Let this stand all night. In the morning boil it a few minutes; and put in as much honey as will sweeten it. A half-pint
basin

basin of this should be drank warm three times a day.

The patient should also have some of the Leaves dried and cut small, and smoke them as tobacco. This is a practice as old as the time of the Romans; and present experience shews it right, and excellent.

Few things will do so much toward curing a Consumption, as Coltsfoot, used constantly these two ways.

Here let us stop a moment, and adore the goodness of the Divine Providence; which makes the best things the most common! The Seggoms, which can do only mischief, are found but in a few places: this, so full of excellence, grows at our doors; and we tread it every where under our feet.

RADIATED HERBS,

WITH A

DOUBLE CUP.

HERBS

Which have a radiated Flower, growing
in a Cup, composed of two Ranges
of Scales.

1. BELLIS.

D A I S Y.

Plate 3.

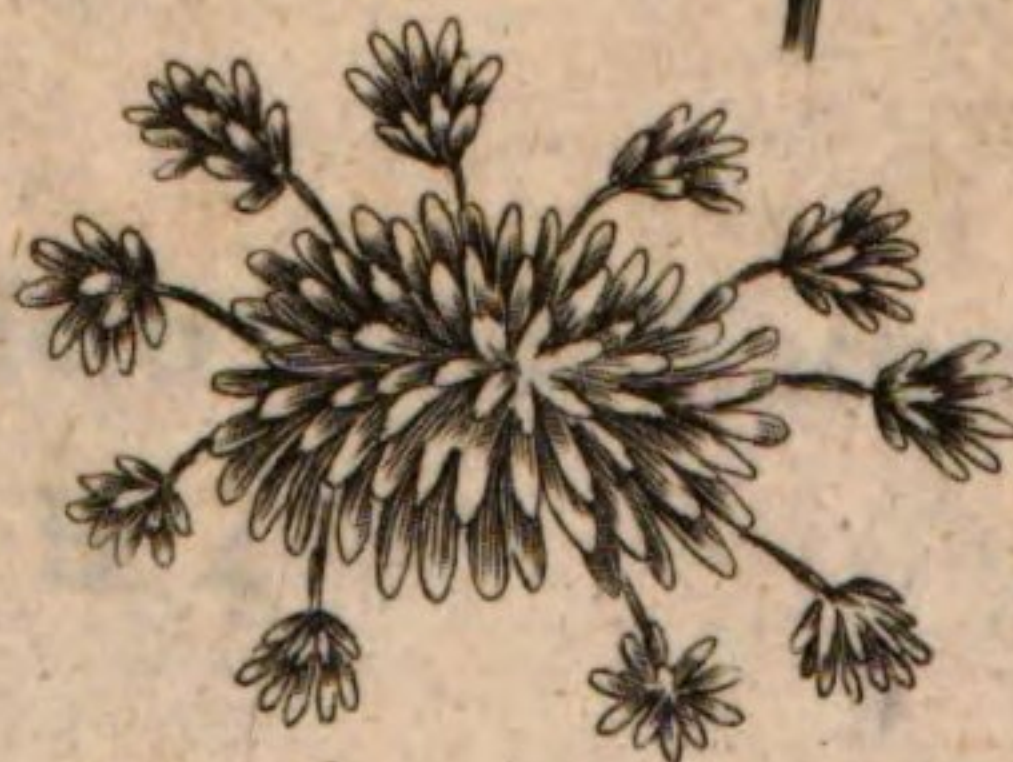
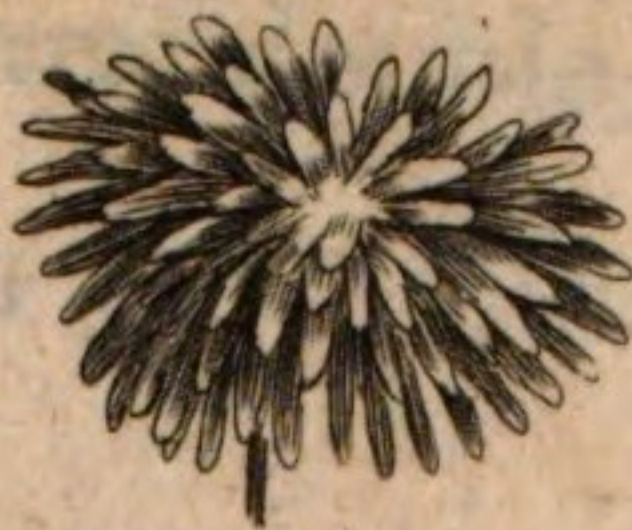
The Cup is rounded, and its Scales are equal.

1. BELLIS

Character Genericus



Bellis Perennis
Little Daisy





1817
1817



1. *BELLIS PERENNIS.*

LITTLE DAISY.

Plate 3.

One Flower only grows upon a Stalk.

This is the universal ornament of our pastures;
a Perennial; flowering all the Summer.

Its leafless Stalk is three Inches high.

The Leaves, which grow from the Root, are
oblong, smooth, and of a deep green.

Its Flowers, in their wildest and most simple
state, are very pretty by their mixture of red
and white; but when the gardener bestows
culture on them, few things return it better:
we see them grow double, large, full, quilled,
and proliferous; young Flowers surrounding the
older.

This is another Herb which Nature has made

common ; because it may be useful.—The Daisy has great, but neglected qualities ; worthy of a serious attention.

Its Leaves contain these virtues. Their taste is that of Coltsfoot, but more mucilaginous ; and without its bitterness.

It is excellent against Hectic Fevers ; and internal Inflammations, of whatever kind ; and in whichever of the Viscera.

An infusion of it should be made as of the Coltsfoot, and just once boiled. It should then be drank in the same manner, with an equal quantity of milk.

Asses milk has ten times its effect if this be taken with it.

2. ANTHEMIS.

CHAMOMILE.

Plate 4.

The Cup is rounded, but the Scales are of unequal length.

1. ANTHE-

Character Genericus



Anthemis nobilis.

Sweet Chamomile



Anthemis fetida

Stinking Mayweed



Anthemis arvensis
Corn Chamomile.



Anthemis tinctoria
Oxeye.



I. ANTHEMIS NOBILIS.
SWEET-SCENTED CHAMOMILE.

Plate 4. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are three times divided, and the divisions are narrow.

This sweet Plant grows wild with us, on damp heaths, and by waters; and has much greater virtues there, than in our gardens.

'Tis a Perennial, scarce rising five or six Inches from the ground.

The Leaves are of a deep green, fragrant, and cut into very fine divisions.

The Flowers are large and white.

Nature offers them to us single; and in that state they have the greatest virtue; because those yellow Threads which then fill their center possess it highly: but 'tis the unlucky custom of the time to use them double from the gardens.

They blow in July and August.

All parts of this excellent Plant are full of
virtue.

virtue. The Leaves, given in infusion, cure Colics ; and dispel wind from the Stomach ; and are excellent against Indigestion.

The Flowers are a fine and noble bitter. Few things are equal to them in strengthening the Stomach, and creating an appetite, as well as assisting digestion. But more than this, they will cure Agues. I have known them do it after the Bark has failed.

The best way of taking the Leaves is in a strong kind of Tea, in which way even that Colic which attends the Gravel yields to them.

When given to strengthen the Stomach, a Tea made strong of the single Flowers of the Wild Chamomile is best : and those who have not made it from such Flowers know less than half its virtue.

For Agues, the same kind of Flowers should be dried and powdered, and a scruple taken
once

once in four hours ; and this repeated for four days.

An oil, distilled from these Flowers, is excellent in Colics ; and, what is very singular, it is blue.

2. ANTHEMIS COTULA.
STINKING MAY WEED.

Plate 4. Fig. 2.

The center of the Flower rises, and the divisions of the Leaves swell in the middle.

This offensive Plant is common in plowed lands ; an annual Weed, that, by its abundance, often robs the crops of their best nourishment.

It grows to a Foot high, branched and spreading.

The Stalk is ruddy.

The Leaves are of a deep and blackish green, and of an ill smell.

The Flowers are white, with a high yellow disk, pointed at top.

They

They blow in May and June.

The Flowers have the same virtue with those of Chamomile, but in a very inferior degree, and are less agreeable.

The Leaves operate by urine, and sometimes by stool ; but both ways roughly and disagreeably. 'Tis strange that Hoffman thought these Leaves more emollient than those of Chamomile. Experience shews otherwise.

3. ANTHEMIS ARVENSIS.

CORN CHAMOMILE.

Plate 4. Fig. 3.

The center of the Flower rises : the Leaves are thin like hairs.

This is the commonest Weed on our ditch banks.

It grows to a Foot and half high ; wild and spreading.

The

The Stalk is red and brittle.

The Leaves are of a dead pale green.

The Flowers are large, and white.

They blow in June, and last till Winter kills the Plant.

The qualities are those of the sweet Chamomile, but in a slight degree.

4. ANTHEMIS TINCTORIA.

OXEYE CHAMOMILE.

Plate 4. Fig. 4.

The Leaves are deep cut, and their parts are dented.

This is a Perennial, native only of our northern counties; but there, it is a pasture Weed, not uncommon.

The Stalk is ruddy, two Foot high, and branchy.

The Leaves are glossy, of a fresh, pale green, and a little downy underneath.

The

The Flowers are of a gold yellow, large, and very handsome.

They blow in June.

The Flowers contain the virtue of the Plant. They promote urine ; and have often cured the Jaundice. They are to be dried, and carefully powdered. A dram is to be taken twice a day.

They are useful also in manufacture ; for they afford a yellow for the dyers.

5. ANTHEMIS MARITIMA.

SEA CHAMOMILE.

Plate 5.

The Leaves are thick and fleshy, and the Cups are downy.

This is an inhabitant of our damp grounds, toward the sea ; a very pretty creeping Plant.

The Stalk is crimson, branchy, and six Inches long ; but it scarce rises from the ground.

The

ANTHEMIS



Anthemis Maritima
Sea Chamæmyle

The Leaves are of a fresh, blueish green, and dotted.

The Flowers are small, and white, with a yellow disk.

They blow in June.

Their virtues are those of Chamomile; but slight and trifling.

Those who live about the sea coasts, where this Plant is common, use an infusion of the Flowers, for Agues; but the powder of the right kind is far better.

H E R B S

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a Cup, formed of many ranges of scaly Films.

I. INULA.

I. INULA.

E L F W O R T.

Plate 6.

The Cup is wide, the Scales stand loose, and
the lower range is leafy.

I. INULA HELENIUM.

E L E C A M P A N E.

Plate 6. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are vast, rugged, long; and
hoary underneath.

This is a native of our meadow grounds;
and from its virtues is become common in our
gardens.

It is a robust and stately Plant; a Perennial
with a firm and a handsome appearance. It
grows to four Foot high.

The Stalk is thick, ruddy, and branched
a little.

The Leaves are of a dull, faint green.

The Flowers are large, and yellow.

They blow in July and August.

It

INULA



Inula dysenterica.
Middle Fleabane.

Inula Helenium.
Elecampane.

Inula pulicaria.
Small Fleabane.

Inula Grithmoides.
Golden Sampire.

The Root, which is long and large, contains the virtues of the Plant : and few have greater.

It has a fragrant, very agreeable smell, and a spicy, sharp, and somewhat bitterish taste. It has long been famous for the cure of all diseases of the Breast ; and it has also great virtues in malignant fevers : but it has others ; and those more distinguishable than these : in strengthening the Stomach, and that way assisting digestion ; not in the manner of bitters, but as a warm, invigorating, and animating medicine, it has not its equal : and it cures the Chin-cough in children, when all else fails.

'Twere vain to expect these virtues in the dried Root, sold at druggists ; which has been baked, ground in a mill, and, tho' cheap enough in itself, yet mixed with flour, to make it cheaper. In that state it has little either of taste, smell, or virtue. The garden must supply it fresh to those who would know its real value. There, as it rises freely from Nature,

it is full of all these excellent qualities. The taste and smell, compared with the dry, will abundantly shew this, before we feel its good Effects.

The way of taking it is this :

Slice the fresh Root thin ; and to a quarter of a pound of it pour three pints of boiling water. After standing all night, boil it a few moments ; and, when cold, strain the Liquor off.

To a pint of this add a quarter of a pint of mountain wine ; if 'tis to be given to a grown person for disorders of the Stomach : and let a full wine glass of this be drank three times a day.

When it is intended for the Chin-cough, half the quantity of the Root will be sufficient. It need only be infused, not boiled : and instead of the wine, add a quarter of a pound of honey : then give two table-spoonfuls at a dose, four times a day.

Nor

Nor will the virtues of this Root, in curing this kind of Cough, appear at all strange to those who, practising rational physic, trace up diseases to their cause.

The Chin-cough is not of the nature of those Coughs which follow Colds; it has not the same origin, nor is it seated in the same place. A tough and fourish phlegm, lodged on the coats of the Stomach, and adhering to them, is the cause. Nature at once shews this; and points out the way to the cure; by childrens vomiting up such phlegm, after their violent fits of coughing in this disease; and always finding relief from it.

Now, of all medicines yet known, Elecampane Root, when fresh and full of virtue, warms, strengthens, and invigorates the Stomach the best: and by that, cures the disease, and prevents its return.

This is not a new ; but only a neglected doctrine : Walschmid and Dolæus, great and excellent writers, tho' too little read at present, confirm it with reasons ; and by repeated observations.

Receive an instance of it here, at home :

Miss *** *****, of Soho, was brought to me, reduced almost to death by this disease. She coughed by fits for a length of time scarce credible ; and that with distracting efforts, and a sound that tore the hearts of all who saw, and heard her.

The nurse had given her Cup Moss ; and the apothecary mosaic gold ; in vain. They had fed her with fried mice, (according to a boasted family receipt) to loathing ; but that could be to no purpose. A physician of great worth had followed Sydenham faithfully, and the poor infant had been bled and purged till no strength

strength remained ; except in the disease : which grew still worse, as she grew weaker.

'Twas in this state I saw the poor, the emaciated little creature ; when I directed the Elecampane Root.

She first took a very gentle vomit, a few grains of Ipecacuanha. The efforts this occasioned were nothing ; compared but to an ordinary fit of coughing.

A few drops of Lettuce wine composed her for the night ; and next day she began to take the infusion, as here directed to be made, with honey, and only of half the strength : two ounces of the Root being used to three pints of water, and that without the boiling.

From the time she began this she used no other drink ; and from that time she gradually recovered,

Her body was, in the mean while, kept open; not by purges; for they irritate; but by glysters: and she became so well, that the servants here would not believe 'twas the same child, tho' brought by the same person.

What infinite good may arise from this easy remedy being once made universally known! 'Tis so innocent that none need fear to administer it. And if in any case circumstances rise which require particular advice, such as I can give, they always may command who want it.

Since the two first Editions of this Pamphlet were published, a great deal of good has been obtained by this Plant: and the more it is used, the more it will be esteemed.

2. INULA DYSENTERICA.
MIDDLE FLEABANE.

Plate 6. Fig. 2.

The Stalk is woolly; and the Leaves are oblong, and clammy.

This is an ugly and ill-looking annual Weed, frequent on waste grounds and by way-fides.

It grows to a Foot high, with a few Branches.

The Leaves are pale, and whitish ; and stick to the Fingers on touching them.

The Flowers are of a light yellow.

They blow in August.

One scarce would think any thing resembling Elecampane in smell, would be disgusting : but this, tho' with the real flavour of that charming Herb, is highly so ; and in its taste is acrid, and forbidding.

3. INULA PULICARIA.

SMALL FLEABANE.

Plate 6. Fig. 3.

The Rays of the Flower are very short ; the Leaves are short and waved.

This is another ill-looking annual Weed, frequent in wet waste places.

It grows to eight Inches high ; but commonly lies, in part, upon the ground.

The Stalk is of a ruddy brown.

The Leaves are short, small, and of a dull dead green.

The Flowers are small, very poor, and of a dirty yellow.

They blow in August.

The smell of this and the former are supposed hateful to insects ; and the juice destructive of them.

4. INULA CRITHMOIDES.

GOLDEN SAMPIRE.

Plate 6. Fig. 4.

The Leaves are three pointed.

This

This beautiful perennial Plant is the ornament
of our sea marshes.

It grows to a Yard high, with many Branches.

The Leaves are of a blue green; thick,
fleshy, and juicy.

The Flowers are of a gold yellow.

They blow in June.

II.

C H R Y S A N T H E M U M
C O R N M A R Y G O L D.

The Cup is elliptic, and its Scales stand close :
the inner range of them is thin.

I. C H R Y S A N T H E M U M
S E G E T U M.
C O R N M A R Y G O L D.

Plate 7. Fig. 1.

The Root Leaves are oblong, and deep
dented.

This

This very beautiful Plant is an Annual, native of our corn fields.

It grows to two foot high, with many spreading Branches.

The Leaves are glossy, and of a blue green.

The Flowers are large, and of a gold yellow.

They blow in August.

2. C H R Y S A N T H E M U M
L E U C A N T H E M U M.

G R E A T D A I S Y.

Plate 7. Fig. 2.

This is a biennial Plant ; an ornament of our pasture grounds, as the other of our corn fields, in Autumn. It is no way related to the Little Daisy of our meadows, in character or virtues ; only in name.

It grows to two foot high, with few Branches.

The Leaves are of a deep, dead green, and smooth.

The Flowers are vast, and of a milky white.

They

Character Genericus



Chrysanthemum
Segetum.
Corn Marygold.

Chrysanthemum
Leucanthemum.
Great Daisy.

2

PLANTAE



Great Daisy

For...
...
...



ASTER



Character
Genericus



Aster Tripolium.
Sea Starwort.

They blow in August.

The taste of this Plant is sharp and acrid :
and it has no smell. Its virtues have not been
enough enquired into.

It is a sharp and pungent diuretic ; cleansing
the kidneys : but many and careful trials should
be made of it before 'tis freely used. An in-
fusion contains all its virtue ; and has the heat
of Cardamoms, or Cubebs. Any boiling weakens
it.

III.

A S T E R.

S T A R W O R T.

The Cup is conic ; the Scales of it are leafy ;
and their points stand out.

A S T E R T R I P O L I U M.

S E A S T A R W O R T.

Plate 8.

The Leaves are narrow ; and the Flowers
are many.

Multitudinous

Multitudinous as the kinds of Aster are, with which the warmer parts of Europe, and, most of all, America, have filled our gardens; this is the only one that graces our country wild.

It is a Perennial; native of our damp grounds near the sea, and great rivers: a handsome Plant, of a Yard high.

The Stalk is ruddy, and branched.

The Leaves are smooth, and of a very fine green.

The Flowers are numerous, large, and blue.

They blow in August.

Of its virtues nothing is known.

IV.

M A T R I C A R I A.

F E V E R F E W.

The Cup is rounded: and its Scales are very numerous, and very narrow.

I. MATRICARIA

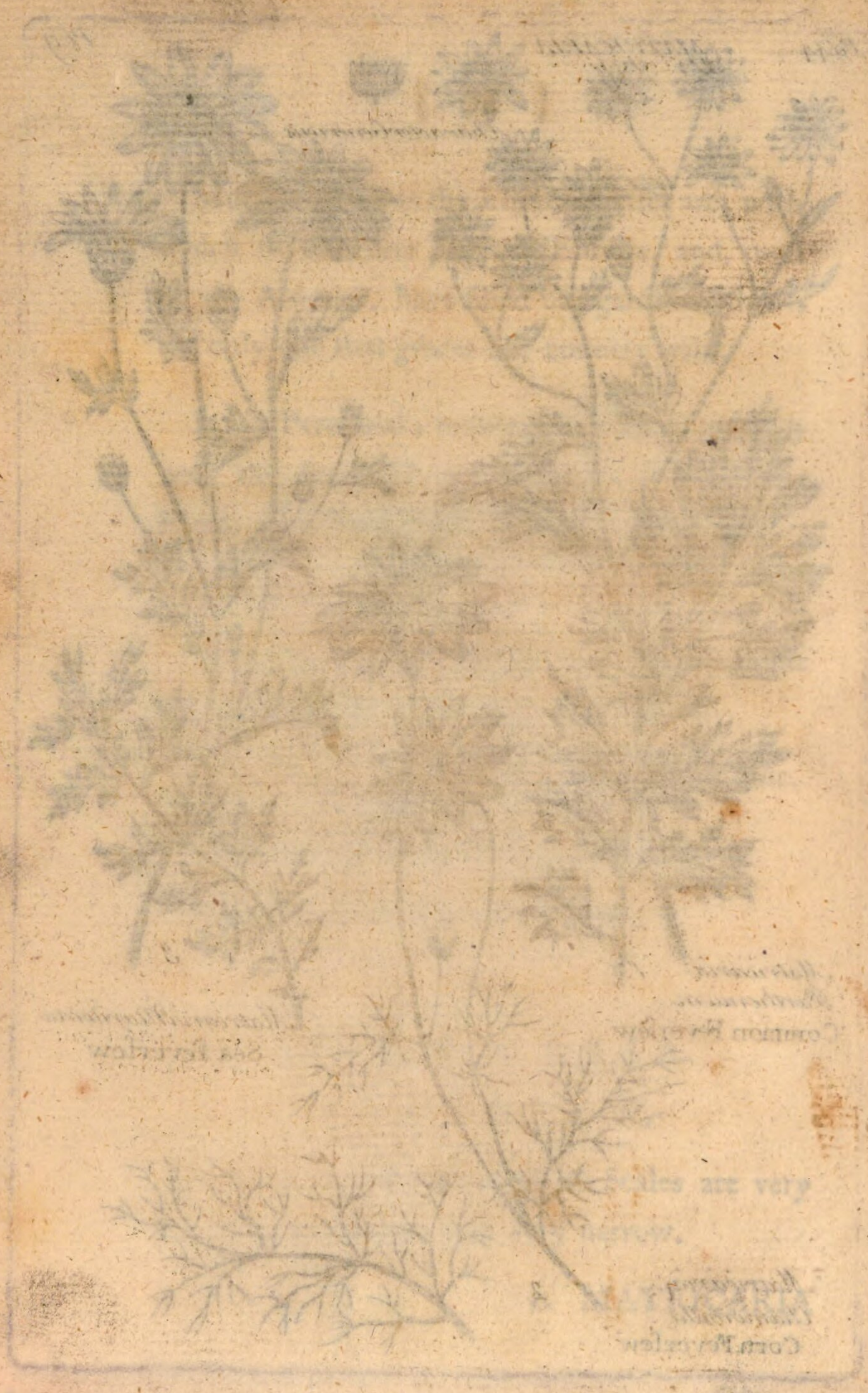
Character Genericus



Matricaria
Parthenium
Common Feverfew

Matricaria Maritima
Sea Feverfew

Matricaria
Chamomilla
Corn Feverfew



I. MATRICARIA PARTHENIUM.
COMMON FEVERFEW.

Plate 9. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are cut, down to the Stalk, in broad and flashed divisions.

This is a Weed of our waste grounds; and is no where so frequent as about farm-houses; a perennial, bushy Plant.

It grows to two Foot high, with a pale Stalk, and many Branches.

The Leaves are of a faded yellowish green.

The Flowers are very numerous, and white.

They blow in June.

The whole Plant has a strong and very particular smell, and a bitterish taste.

Provident Nature, which has placed this Herb every where at our doors, has doubtless given to it these striking qualities, to invite us to its use; which is indeed very great.

In

In disorders arising from an obstruction of evacuations peculiar to the female sex, its virtues are beyond all praise; and above all value.

Steel given on these occasions tears the constitution; and, for a little present good, sometimes entails a lasting series of disorders. The chymical preparations of Steel are yet by many degrees more hurtful than its simple self; but we have here an innocent Herb, incapable of harm, ready at hand, that will do all the good that can be expected from them; without the possibility of mischief.

The fact is the same in a thousand other instances; for our own Herbs are as full of virtue, as destitute of mischief: and I do, in Christian truth, believe, (tho' 'tis a very bold conclusion) that more good may be done in the world by Herbs; than mischief by chymical preparations.

For the use of this Plant no medical art is
needed:

needed : the Leaves are to be stripped off, and boiling water poured on them. A strong tea is to be thus made of Feverfew ; and it is to be drank by half-pint basins. Three in a day will be sufficient.

In the worst Head-Achs this Herb exceeds whatever else is known.

A lady of great worth and virtue, the mother of the late Sir William Bowyer, told me, that having in the younger part of her life a very terrible and almost constant Head-Ach, fixed in one small spot, and raging at all times almost to distraction ; and which the neighbouring Dr. Thorold, of Uxbridge, very eminent in his profession, had attempted in vain to remove ; she was at length cured by a maid-servant, with this Herb.

The lady drank the tea of it plentifully ; and applied the warm leaves, of which the tea had been made, to the part. The complaint ceased ; and never returned.

The

The frequency of Head-Achs, and the Relief obtained by many from this Herb, since the first publication of these Sheets; have brought before the Author a number of Cases, in persons of all ranks, from the very highest to the poor; in some of which candour obliges him to say, the advantage was but temporary; the pain, after a few days, returning. These were mostly Cases where a thickness of Blood, and long obstructed vessels, threatened worse consequences; Palsies, or Apoplexies: but these also may be cured by a volatile Spirit from the Herb, distilled with Sal Armoniac. The Reader will accept the following instance.

A gentleman about Fifty, a person of honour, and not hasty in forming his opinions, gives the account.

He took a Tea of Feverfew for a vehement Head-Ach; which it always alleviated; and sometimes, for a few days, removed: but the complaint still returned upon him.

It

It was a settled heaviness, and dull pain; with frequent shootings, that cut like knives: attended with giddiness, dimness of sight, and a disturbed imagination. He applied to the Author, who distilled such a volatile Spirit from the same Herb, which has perfectly cured him. This gentleman is otherwise healthy, excepting for the Gout; and tho' he cannot say how far this Medicine may have assisted, yet it is certain he has been, since the taking it, much stronger on his feet, than of some time before.

2. MATRICARIA CHAMOMILLA.

CORN FEVERFEW.

Plate 9. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are cut into many parts, as fine as threads.

This is an annual Weed, hateful to farmers: but it has its virtues.

N° I.

D

It

It grows to a Foot and half high.

The Stalk is slender, pale, and branchy.

The Leaves have no smell.

The Flowers are large, and white.

They blow in July.

These have the virtues of those of Chamomile; but with more cordial warmth.

3. MATRICARIA MARITIMA.

SEA FEVERFEW.

The Leaves swell up, and are thick; and they are composed of many parts, which are again cut down to the rib.

This is a sea-side, perennial Plant, frequent in Cornwall.

It grows to eight Inches high, upright, and branchy.

The

The Stalk is thick, and ruddy.

The Leaves are of a dull green ; hollow underneath, and rising on the upper side.

The Flowers are white, with a low yellow disk.

They blow in August.

Its virtues are not known.

THE candid Reader has here laid before him, the Specimen of a Method, by which it is proposed, to learn; to ascertain; and then to make public, The Virtues of the Plants of Britain.

Where nothing is known, nothing is ascribed to them : where many things have been said, such alone are mentioned here as have been proved by experience : where there is a probability of virtue, the herb is proposed for trial ; and reasons are given for that opinion : and where danger threatens ; that is also mentioned.

Upon this plan, tho' the observations of many are requisite ; the means of them are rendered

easy: and the cause truly deserves them. There are in England, on a free conjecture, fifteen hundred Plants which promise, by their taste and smell, considerable virtues: of these more than a thousand yet remain to be tried: And every advance is something to the general good; so it be made with accuracy.

The first thing, to this purpose, must be to know, and make known perfectly the Plant itself, to others: and in the method here employed 'tis hoped that is not difficult. The general heads of the characters; and the descriptions of the parts, are plain at least; and obvious: and the superadded distinctions, which mark the gradations next under them, 'tis hoped are evident. Those which distinguish kind from kind, and Plant from Plant in the same kind, are easier yet, and cannot be mistaken: and herein lies the reality of knowledge.

Every one knows what a radiated Flower is; for every one has seen a Sun-flower, or a Mary-gold:

gold: when therefore he sees such a Flower, whose Cup has only one row of Scales, he finds here, that only two kinds of English Plants have that character; and looking to the next distinction, he sees, that if those Scales are flat, the Plant is Coltsfoot; if they be hollowed, it is Bidens. This is short and easy: more is not needful; and the Plant can never be mistaken.

Thus he will be led to know every Herb he finds; by referring it to its characters; those whose virtues are unknown, as well as those we are better acquainted with; for all are here: and all are necessary to be known; not only for distinction from each other; but since all may have virtues.

There is a plain necessity also for knowing all the Plants of the same name or kind with that in use; because the greatest errors may be fallen into by using one of those kinds for another.

Nightshade, for instance, is a name of many Plants ; all of one general kind ; but of most different virtues. There is one whose proper dose is two ounces ; another that can make great alterations in the body by a quarter of a grain : and one whose roots, and several whose fruits, are eaten at table. Therefore he who should say, give Nightshade in such a case, would prescribe under a dangerous name ; till all these were known asunder.

Hence also appears their folly (for it deserves no better name) who would advise men to seek the virtues of Herbs merely by their forms, or characters.

We see in this small specimen, that, among radiated Plants, one is stomachic, another pectoral, a third a powerful diuretic ; and so on : yet are no Plants more naturally or justly joined in character, than those with radiated Flowers. And even, beside all this variety of virtues in these ; the Doronicum and some others of this kind,

kind, are poisonous. It is experience, not the forms of Plants, must lead us to the truth : but that, unless we are accurate, is useless.

The Author of these carefully considered Pages hopes, by their means, to make such accuracy easy, and familiar. God has given him many blessings : the Public are the means thro' which he has received them ; and this is the return which piety and gratitude demand. For once the motive will not be mistaken ; for those who see the nature and price of the present Publication, will not suppose 'tis dictated by interest.

I N D E X

I N D E X of H E R B S.

A Grimony, Hemp, Page 15	Fleabane, Marsh — Page 14
Anthemis — — 24	Hemp Agrimony — 15
After — — — 43	Inula — — — 32
Bellis — — — 22	Marygold, Corn — — 41
Bidens — — — 15	Matricaria — — — 45
Chamaemile — — — 24	Mayweed — — — 27
Chrysanthemum — — — 41	Othonna — — — 11
Coltsfoot — — — 19	Ox-eye — — — 29
Corn Marygold — — — 41	Parthenium — — — 45
Cotula — — — 27	Plants, to know — 52, 53
Daisy, Little — — — 22	Ragwort — — — 12
Daisy, Great — — — 42	Sampire, Golden — — 40
Elecampane — — — 32	Seggrom — — — 11
Elfwort — — — 32	Starwort — — — 43
Enula Campana — — — 32	Tussilago — — — 19
Feverfew — — — 45	
Feverfew, Corn — — — 49	
Feverfew, Sea — — — 50	
Fleabane — — — 39	

I N D E X of D I S E A S E S, &c.

A Gues — — Page 26	Gout — — Page 49
Asthmas — — — 20	Gravel — — — 17, 20, 26
Bitter — — — 26	Head-achs — — — 46
Chin-cough — — — 33	Hectics — — — 24
Cholic — — — 26	Jaundice — — — 30
Consumptions — — — 20	Indigestion — — — 26
Diuretic — — — 43	Sheep destroyed — 12, 15
Fevers — — — 24	Stone — — — 17, 20

F I N I S.

V I R T U E S
O F
BRITISH HERBS.

N U M B. II.

CONTAINING,

CURES—Of the GRAVEL by a Tea of GOLDEN-ROD;
Of SCORBUTIC BLEMISHES by a Decoction of EUPA-
TORIUM; AND
Of the PILES by YARROW.

An Account of the eminent Virtues of BUTTERBURR in
FEVERS, and the PLAGUE itself.

And of the Excellence of Flowers of TANZY for the Cure of WORMS.

The Power of CONSOUND as a VULNERARY ; and the original Receipt for
ARQUEBUSADE-WATER:

With an Instance of an inveterate STOMACH-COMPLAINT cured by a
Tea of the Flowers of SWEET FEVERFEW.

VOLUME 2
OF
BRITISH HERBS.

BY J. M. B. H.

CONTAINING

THE NAMES OF THE BRITISH HERBS, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF EACH;

OF SCOTLAND, IRELAND, AND THE ADJACENT ISLANDS;

AND

OF THE NAMES OF THE BRITISH HERBS,

AS APPEARING IN THE OLD BOOKS OF THE HERBARIUM.

PRINTED, AND SOLD BY J. M. B. H.

AND OF THE LONDON HERBARIUM, IN THE CITY OF LONDON.

THE FIRST OF THE BRITISH HERBS, AND THE ORIGINAL HERBS.

AND THE SECOND OF THE BRITISH HERBS.

THE THIRD OF THE BRITISH HERBS, AND THE ORIGINAL HERBS.

THE FOURTH OF THE BRITISH HERBS, AND THE ORIGINAL HERBS.

AND

THE FIFTH OF THE BRITISH HERBS, AND THE ORIGINAL HERBS.

AND THE SIXTH OF THE BRITISH HERBS, AND THE ORIGINAL HERBS.

VOLUME 2

V I R T U E S
 O F
 B R I T I S H H E R B S.

1. MATRICARIA SUAVEOLENS.

SWEET FEVERFEW.

Plate 10. Fig. 1.

THE disk, or center of the Flower rises high; and its Rays turn back.

This is an Annual; a Weed in the corn fields of Suffex; and other places where the ground is light and sandy: it grows to twelve or fourteen inches high, sometimes to two foot; with an upright Stem, and many branches.

N^o II.

B

The

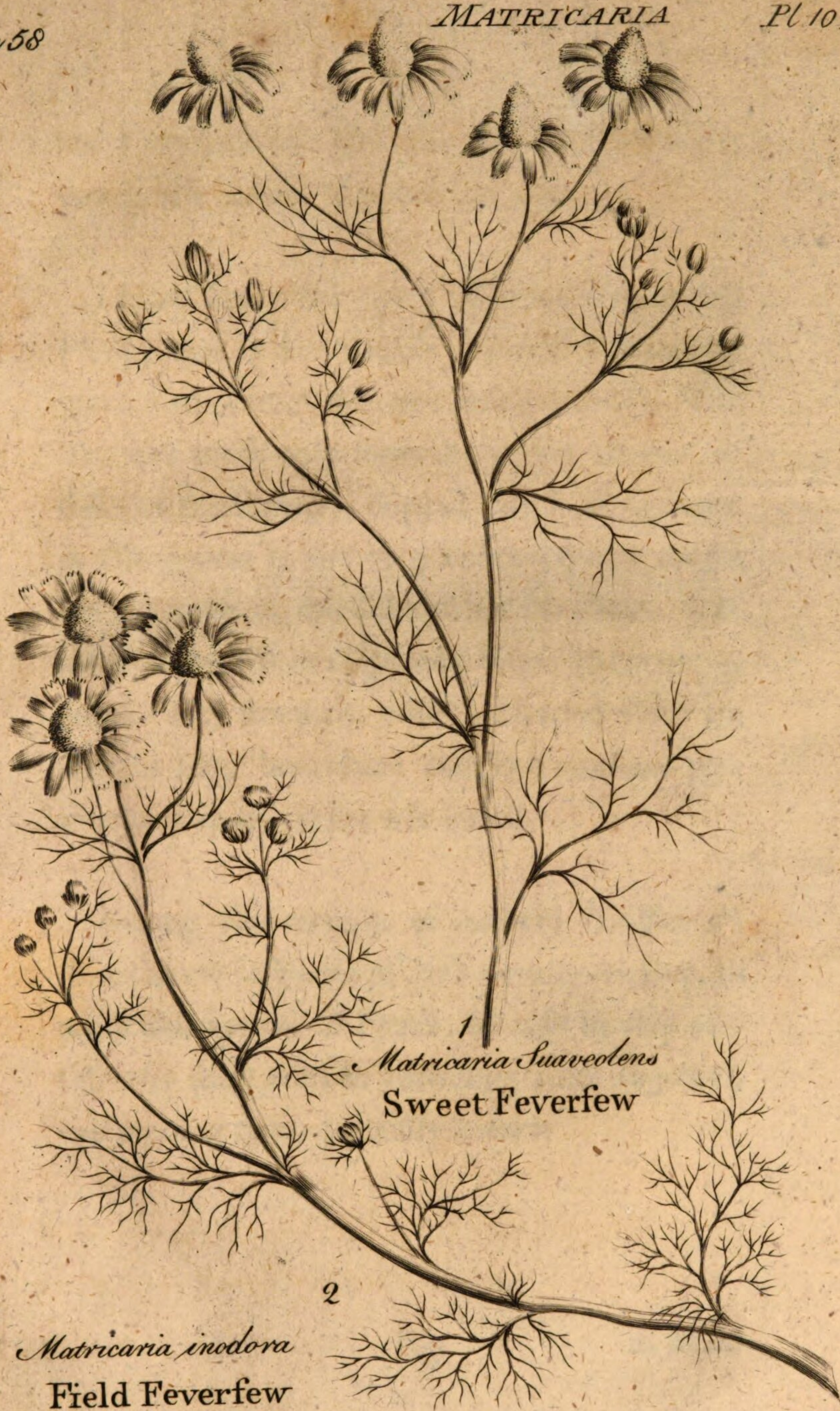
The Stalk is ruddy, firm, and hard.

The Leaves are cut into divisions as fine as threads; and are of a dusky green colour.

The Flowers are very numerous, large, and white; only the disk, or central part is yellow.

They blow in June.

The Flowers of this Plant have an agreeable bitterness; and they possess the virtues such a taste declares: they are stomachic in a very high degree. I had a singular and striking instance of it some years ago. The late Duchess of Richmond, most excellent of women; most charitable and most beneficent; through whose means, I persuade myself, I have done some good in Suffex; desired me, when once at Goodwood, to visit a farmer's wife in the neighbourhood, who was perishing from mere want of nourishment. An aversion to all food had possessed her for many months; not to be accounted for by any means; or equalled by all that has been written in medicine. It was scarce possible to get her to taste any thing whatever; and



1
Matricaria Suaveolens
Sweet Feverfew

2
Matricaria inodora
Field Feverfew

and a few minutes after the least morsel was got down, she always threw it up again.

I found her in the use of a Tea made from this Plant; and as her friends thought it promised good, I recommended the continuance of it. The Tea was made only from the yellow centres, or disks of the Flowers, clipped into boiling water. A Clergyman in the neighbourhood had taught her the method, and shewed her the Plant. The infusion was the most grateful bitter that could be tasted. Her stomach, which abhorred Gentian, and the like, bore this: and by a constant perseverance in its use she was cured.

Among the receipts of country families are found many instances of such peculiar virtues, in particular Species of Plants: he will be very useful who shall assist in collecting them together, and making them generally known.

2. MATRICARIA INODORA.

FIELD FEVERFEW.

Plate 10. Fig. 2.

The disk of the Flower is broad and low ;
and its rays spread out flat.

This is an Annual : a Weed on our dry plough-
ed grounds and ditch banks : it grows to half a
yard high ; in a wild straggling manner.

The Stalk leans in part upon the ground, and
spreads toward the top into several Branches : its
colour is a dark, and coarse green, often stained
with red.

The Leaves are of a deep and dusky green :
and when bruised, they have a raw unpleasant
smell.

The Flowers are large, and of a milky white,
with an orange-coloured disk.

They blow in August, and September.

The great use of this Herb is external. The
whole Plant with its Flowers beaten, and made
into

into a poultice, with some bread and milk, and a little oil, softens and disposes to maturation. It is emollient, and at the same time warm ; which is for this purpose a happy mixture of qualities. I have seen it used with great success ; and wish the Surgeons would attend to it ; there is nothing they want more.

V.

A C H I L L E A.

Y A R R O W.

The Cup is egg-shaped : and its scales are oval ;
and turn in at the points.

1. ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM.

COMMON YARROW.

Plate 11. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are cut into a multitude of fine
small parts.

This is an upright, and not unhandfome Plant, common in our pasture grounds ; and (like many others) of much more use and value than is generally known. It is a Perennial, and grows to two foot high.

The Stalk is upright, covered with Leaves, but destitute of Branches. Its colour is a dull, and somewhat greyish green.

The Leaves are of a deep dead green colour, and of a tough substance.

The Flowers are usually white ; but 'tis a common, and very pretty variety to see them of a delicate crimson : and 'tis worth knowing, that the Flowers of this colour produce Seeds which will always raise red-flowered Plants.

They blow in July and August.

Lord E—— first told me, that Horses loved the young Leaves of this Herb : and that it might be used to increase the quantity of food in dry pastures ; that yield naturally but little grafs.

Some Writers of great name and worth, have taken pains to tell us what Plants Cattle will
not

ACHILLÆA

Pl

Character Genericus



Achillea Millefolium.
Common Yarrow.



Achillea Ptarmica.
Sneezewort.

not eat: they judge of this by looking at what are left in grounds where they have fed; and all such they direct to be rooted up. We have in this an instance, that more care is needful than men commonly will take, to shew what is and what is not valuable. Yarrow is a Plant left standing always in fed pastures; for Cattle will not eat its hard dry Stalk; nor have the Leaves any great value after this rises: but Yarrow still is useful. I sowed some in a barren patch of grass ground; and all the while the Leaves were tender, the Cows and Horses eat them heartily; It proved wholesome, and doubled the natural produce. On cutting down the Stalks as they rose, the Plant still kept in leaf and freshness; growing as it was eaten.

As a Medicine, Yarrow always has been eminent: it alleviates pain, and restrains violent bleedings. The Piles are a most frequent and most troublesome illness: they will sometimes be distractingly painful; and bleed too much. In this case Yarrow scarcely has its equal. A strong

Tea should be made of the Leaves, and drank plentifully : and equal parts of this Herb, and of Toadflax, should be made into a poultice with pomatum; and laid on outwardly. Sleep follows, and the pain grows easy, and the bleeding lessens.

There is an ancient superstition of Yarrow curing Tertian Agues ; but too idle to be much regarded. A Leaf of it is to be pulled off with the left hand, pronouncing at the same time the sick man's name ; and this Leaf is to be taken. The same thing has been said of Feverfew ; for in old times names of Plants, as well as now, were too much confounded. The Feverfew seems best for the purpose ; but doubtless it will do as well without the superstition.

2. ACHILLEA PTARMICA,
SNEEZEWORT.

Plate 11. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are long and narrow ; and beautifully dented at the edges.

This

This is a pretty Plant, a Perennial, native of our moist grounds, but not common.

It grows to two foot high, in a regular manner, with many upright Stalks of a pale green, and not much branched.

The Leaves are of a lively green ; and there is a neatness in the indentings round the edge that is very pleasing.

The Flowers are white, with a greyish disk. They blow from July to November.

Culture renders them double ; and they are then a very handsome ornament in our gardens.

This is an acrid, sharp Plant : it brings water into the mouth : and snuffed up causes sneezing, and that even to the bleeding of the nose. It is not one of those Herbs I would wish should be of common use.

VI.

GOLDEN ROD.

SOLIDAGO.

The cup is cylindric, and its scales are narrow,
and turn inward their whole length.

1. SOLIDAGO VIRGO AUREA.

COMMON GOLDEN ROD.

Plate 12. Fig. 1.

This is a Perennial ; a very handsome Plant,
that grows by wood sides, and on heaths and
among thickets.

It rises to two foot high, with an upright red-
dish Stalk, turned and bent a little from the
joints, and terminated by a long and beautiful
spike of Flowers.

The Leaves are of a deep but not very fine
green, and they feel a little harsh.

The

Pa 66

SOLIDAGO.



Character Genericus.



*Solidago
virga aurea.* 1
Common Golden Rod.



*Solidago
lambrica.* 3
Welch Golden Rod.



*Solidago
angustifolia.* 2
Narrow leaved Golden Rod.

The Flowers are of a gold yellow, and numerous, though small.

They blow in August.

It is a balsamic, vulnerary Herb ; long famous against inward hurts and bruises : but it has greater and more certain virtues.

It is an excellent and safe Diuretic ; few things exceed it in the Gravel ; and when there are small stones so lodged as to cause heat and soreness, which are too often followed with bloody or purulent urine ; then 'tis this Herb shews all its excellence.

Its balsamic virtues co-operate with its diuretic quality ; and the parts are at the same time cleansed, and healed.

No preparation is better than a Tea of the Herb for this service ; and the young Leaves have the most virtue.

2. SOLIDAGO ANGUSTIFOLIA.
NARROW-LEAVED GOLDEN ROD.

Plate 12. Fig. 2.

This is a very pretty Plant, native of Ireland ; a Perennial, that makes a handsome figure on their rocky hills. It grows to a foot and half high ; and has few or no Branches,

The Stalk is weak, tender, and of a dead green, tinged with a ruddy brown.

The Leaves are of a bright and glossy green, smooth, and lightly dented at the edges.

The Flowers are of a pale yellow, and stand in a loose pretty Spike.

They blow in July.

It resembles the preceding in virtues as in form.

3. SOLIDAGO CAMBRICA.

WELCH GOLDEN ROD.

Plate 12. Fig. 3.

The Flowers stand at the top in a round cluster.

This is an humble, but a pretty Plant; a Perennial, native of the Welch mountains: a favoured food of Goats.

The Stalk is simple, upright, brown, and six inches high.

The Leaves are oblong, narrow, pale, and a little downy.

The Flowers are numerous, and of a gold yellow.

They blow in August and September.

The taste seems to shew virtues the same with those of the first kind, but in an inferior degree.

VII.

ERIGERON.

SIMSON.

The Cup is cylindric: its Scales are awl-shaped; and placed erect. The rays of the Flower are narrow.

I. ERIGERON ACRE.

BLUE SIMSON.

Plate 13. Fig. 1.

The Flowers stand separate, one above another, alternately.

This is a Perennial, native of our high dry grounds; a strange Plant; that appears twice in the year, and wears two different faces.

In April we see it weak, lying on the ground, and scarce six inches long: in August and September it flowers a second time, and is then robust,

Character Genericus



1
Erigeron Acre.
Sweet Fleabane

2
Erigeron Canadense.
Canada Fleabane

bust, upright, about fifteen inches high, and carries larger Flowers.

The Leaves are of a dull dead green, soft to the touch.

The Stalk is ruddy, firm, and dry.

The Flowers are of a purplish blue : they never spread quite wide open ; but the Rays always stand upward.

It is a sharp and acrid Plant. We have the testimony of Haller, that they give it in some parts of Germany in disorders of the breast, where the complaint arises from a tough phlegm : But it appears to me one of those Herbs that should be used with great caution.

2. CANADA SIMSON.

ERIGERON CANADENSE.

Plate 13. Fig. 2.

The Flowers are clustered in great numbers at the top of the Stalks.

This is an Annual, that grows on our dry banks, and among rubbish : sometimes we find it not six inches high, sometimes two foot or more.

The Stalk is of a dusky green, tinged with brown.

The Leaves are various ; the lower of some breadth, and rudely dented ; the upper narrow and undivided ; all of a dead green.

The Flowers are white, and of no beauty.

They blow in August and September.

H E R B S

Which have a radiated Flower, growing
in a Cup that is fringed, or surrounded
with short Leaves at the bottom.

I.

S E N E C I O.

G R O U N D S E L L.

The Scales of the Cup are withered at their tops.

I. S E N E C I O J A C O B Æ A.

C O M M O N R A G W O R T.

Plate 14. Fig. 1.

The Leaves seem cut, or rather gnawn, to
rags.

This is a Weed too frequent in our pastures,
covering a great deal of ground to ill purpose,

N^o II.

C

for

for no Cattle touch it. It is an Annual; leafy, branchy, and of a coarse, ill aspect.

The Stalk is two foot high, firm, upright, thick, and of a dull green, often stained with brown or red.

The Leaves are of a dark coarse green, and smooth; and have an unpleasant smell.

The Flowers are numerous and yellow.

They blow in June, July, and August.

The taste of the Leaves is a disagreeable bitter; with a mixture of sharpness. It has been said they are good against the Dysentery *: the juice is directed to be taken.

Externally, they have been praised with good reason against Swellings, and in Inflammations: they are to be boiled to softness; and applied as a warm poultice, with bread and oil.

* S. Pauli.

2. SENEIO VISCOSUS.

STINKING GROUNDSELL.

The Leaves are thick, and clammy to the touch.

This is an offensive, fulsome Weed, upon our dry ditch banks ; an Annual, of straggling, and irregular growth.

The Stalk is two foot high, soft, tender, and of a pale green.

The Leaves are of a faint green, thick, downy, and soft : they stick to the hands ; and smell so rankly that the common people thence call it Stinking Groundsell.

The Flowers are numerous, small, and of a faint yellow.

They blow in July, and till the end of summer.

This has been praised in fluxes of the bowels, and I believe with reason ; for in the use of it

on some other occasions, I have found that it has the emetic power of Ipecacuanha; but in a less degree, and not in so agreeable manner. The virtues of that drug in dysenteries is well known. The use I have made of this is against hysteric complaints: and it has proved a good; tho' most unpleasant medicine.

3. *SENECIO SYLVATICUS.*
MOUNTAIN GROUNDSELL.

Plate 15. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are smooth: and the Rays of the Flower turn back.

This is a tall and robust Plant, common on our ditch banks, and in other waste dry places; an Annual.

The Stalk grows to a yard high, and is of a dull green, tinged with brown.

The Leaves are of a faint green, and firm to the touch.

The Flowers are numerous, and of a fine light yellow.

They blow in July and August.

The



2
Senecio viscosus.
Stinking Groundsell.

Senecio Jacobaea. 1
Common Ragwort.

The people in Lincolnshire use this externally against pains and swellings; and, as they affirm, with great success.

4. SENECIO AQUATICUS.

WATER GROUNDSELL;

O R,

WATER RAGWORT.

Plate 15. Fig. 2.

The Root Leaves are broad, with a few jags at the base; those on the Stalks are deeply divided down almost to the rib.

This is a Water Plant, common enough by ditch sides, and in places where the wet stands in winter; a Perennial of handsome growth.

The Stalk is two foot high, and spreads out into wide Branches.

The Leaves are of a lively green, stained sometimes with red; and they are smooth and glossy.

The Flowers are of a beautiful bright yellow.

There is an acrid sharpness in this Plant, that speaks against its use; though otherwise 'tis like the rest of its kind.

5. SENECIO SARRACENICUS.

SARRACENS CONSOUND.

Plate 15. Fig. 3.

The Leaves are oblong, broad, and ferrated.

This is a robust, conspicuous Plant, common in the meadows of Yorkshire and of Wiltshire; but elsewhere scarce; a Perennial, that propagates abundantly by its spreading Roots.

The Stalk is four foot high, green, tough, and spreading at the top.

The Leaves are of a fine fresh green, smooth, bright, and glossy.

The Flowers are small and yellow.

Wonders are related of the virtues of this Herb against hurts and bruises: and it is a great ingredient in the Swiss Arquebusade Water. It is balsamic and diuretic.

Many

2



1
Senecio
Sylvaticus.

Mountain
Groundsell.

2

Senecio Aquaticus.
Water Ragwort.

3

Senecio
Sarasenicus.
Saracens Consounds.

Many receipts have been spoken of for the making this famous Water ; and great secrets are made of some of them. The best I have seen is that which follows : I obtained it, by purchase, from one whom I believe to be a person of veracity and knowledge ; and am happy in this opportunity of giving it to the Public ; because every one who has an Alembic, may now make it with the greatest ease.

Take Leaves of Angelica half a pound, Bugle, Scabious, Comfry, Spear-mint, Roman Wormwood, of each six ounces ; Germander, Rue, Speedwell, and Common Daisy, each a quarter of a pound ; Roots of Butterburr, and Tops of St. John's Wort, of each three ounces ; Leaves of Saracens Confound, ten ounces.

Gather all these fresh, and hang them up three days in an airy place ; then clip them small, and put them into the Alembic, with two gallons of Molasses Spirit ; let them stand

two days ; and then add three gallons of water. Distil off one gallon and a half ; add to it one gallon of spring water, and half a pound of the finest sugar. Let it stand four days, and then filter it through paper, and put it up for use.

They are particular in using only the wild Saracens Confound ; for they say when raised in gardens, it gets an ill quality. There appears to be no certainty in this account ; but they affirm it positively : and such notices should always be regarded.

6. SENECIO ERUCÆFOLIUS.

HOARY GROUNDSELL.

Plate 16. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are hoary ; and the Rays of the Flower spread flat.

This is a woodside Plant ; a Perennial that loves shade, and flourishes best where there is a little moisture.

The Stalk is upright, and a yard high, of a dead green, and furnished with many Branches.

The

The Leaves are of a pale green, and somewhat hoary.

The Flowers are large, handsome, and of a light yellow.

They blow in July and August.

Its virtues seem the same with those of the others of its kind; for the taste, smell, and all its sensible qualities resemble them: and 'tis said that a strong infusion of it is an excellent Gargle in a fore throat; spitting it out.

7. SENECIO PALUDOSUS.

MARSH GROUNDSELL.

Plate 16. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are long, narrow, delicately serrated, and downy underneath.

This is a very handsome Plant found in our marshes, upon rotten boggy ground, and almost in water; a Perennial; of upright regular growth.

The Stalk is brown, firm, and near a yard high, and it has few or no branches.

The

The Leaves are beautifully ferrated, and are of a bright light green above, and hoary below.

The Flowers are of a very fine bright yellow.

They blow in August.

In the isle of Ely, where this Plant is common, they boil the Leaves in Hog's Lard, and make of them an ointment, which does good in the Sciatica. The virtues are very much spoken of; and the thing is easy to be made: the Leaves are to be fresh gathered, and chopped small, they are then to be put into as much Lard as will melt easily with them; and when they are boiled till they are crisp, the Lard is to be pressed off; and when cold, put by for use.

H E R B S

Which have a tubulated Flower, growing in a Cup consisting of only one row of Scales.

If we pull off the Rays from any of the preceding Flowers, we shall see what is called
by



Senecio Erucaefolius
Hoary Groundsell



Senecio paludosus
Marsh Fleabane
or Bird's tongue

by Botanists, a tubulated Flower. Those consist of a disk or central part, surrounded with Rays : these of the central part only : they have no Rays.

I.

B I D E N S.

H E M P A G R I M O N Y.

The Cup is broad, and cylindric, and its Scales are hollow.

The Reader will remember the term Bidens; we had it in the former number at page 15. But there are plants of this name which have no Rays to their Flower : and every herb must stand in its just place here. There is no way else of knowing them distinctly.

1. B I D E N S T R I P A R T I T A.

T R I F I D H E M P A G R I M O N Y.

Plate 17. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are cut into three parts.

This

This is a coarse ill growing water Plant, branchy and robust ; an Annual of no beauty.

The Stalk is brown, upright, thick, and near a yard high.

The Leaves are of a dusky brownish green.

The Flowers are yellow, and they blow in August.

The Seeds are oblong and light, and have three points, by which they stick to the cloaths of those who pass hastily by them.

They stuck to Mr. Baker's, the premier Philosopher of the Royal Society ; and they will long stick to his name, and theirs : he thought them living creatures, and they are described and figured as such in the Philosophical Transactions ; under the name of Unknown Animals.

The Leaves of this Plant have the singular smell and taste of the radiated Bidens of Ireland ; but in a greater degree. 'Tis probable its qualities are of the same kind : but 'tis that plant, not this, that should be first tried in cases of the gravel.



Character Genericus



1 *Bidens tripartita*
Trifid Hemp Agrimony.



3 *Bidens minima*
Dwarf Hemp
Agrimony.



2 *Bidens cernua*
Undivided
Hemp Agrimony.



2. B I D E N S C E R N U A.

UNDIVIDED HEMP AGRIMONY.

Plate 17. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are lanced and dented, and they grow together at the base.

This is an Annual, native of our ditches and wet grounds; a bushy, coarse, robust Plant.

The Stalk is two foot and a half high, of a deep green, tinged with a ruddy brown, and full of branches.

The Leaves are of a strong shining green, and smooth; but towards Autumn they commonly get a ruddy brown hue also.

The Flowers are of a dull unpleasing yellow; they hang down; but the seeds which follow them, rise upright.

They blow in August, and the seed ripens in September.

The

The taste and smell declare the same qualities in this, as the preceding ; but it is still less to be recommended for trial, than the Irish kind.

3. B I D E N S M I N I M A.

DWARF HEMP AGRIMONY.

Plate 17. Fig. 3.

The Leaves are lanced, and undivided at the edges ; and they stand free of one another at the base.

This is a little Annual, native of our damp places, and where water has stood in winter ; a plant of no beauty ; easily overlooked, and that has been overlooked, even by great writers.

The Stalk is simple, upright, without any branches ; and grows but to five or six inches high. Its colour is a reddish brown.

The Leaves are of a pale green, and waved at the edges.

The Flowers are yellow, and they stand upright, not drooping as the others.

They blow in August.

Linnaeus

Linnæus did not allow the existence of this plant as a distinct Species, in the former editions of his Species Plantarum : I had some reasoning with his Pupils here about it : but he, to his everlasting honour, is open to conviction. In the new edition of that valuable book, he has allowed it a place, as I had done in the second volume of the Vegetable System.

This has scarce any thing of the peculiar smell and taste of the others.

II.

PETASITES.

BUTTERBURR.

The Cup is oval, and its Scales are flat.

I. PETA-

I. PETASITES OVATUS.

COMMON BUTTERBURR.

The head of flowers is oval and compact.

This is a perennial, spreading plant; common in wet grounds and low meadows; and has the strange property of sending up its flowers at a different season from its leaves; very long before them: as the Coltsfoot also does. Many an eye is familiar with its vast leaves, that never knew the ruddy tuft of flowers belongs to the same plant.

The Flower-stalk appears early, and grows to eight inches high, thick, tender, juicy; and hung about with a multitude of skinny films, of a pale flesh colour.

The Leaves come afterwards, and grow to a vast size; they are roundish, of a pale green, with thick white veins, and often are a foot and a half in diameter.

Character Genericus



Petasites
Common

1
ovatus
Butterbur

2
Petasites
Tall

elatior
Butterbur

The Flowers are of a pale flesh colour.

They blow in April, and fade before the Leaves arrive at any great size.

The Root is whitish, thick, tender, juicy, and spreads about under the surface to a great extent.

'Tis one of those innumerable instances that the Providence of God, ever attentive to the good of man, has placed those things about us in great plenty, which can be of great use.

This is an admirable medicine in fevers of every kind: taken early it prevents the mischiefs that often rise naturally in those diseases; and oftener from the errors of physicians.

We may remember that, in a fever which raged near twenty years ago, and proved very fatal; the physician usually asked at his first visit, if the patient had been blooded; and if he was answered Yes, he would tell the relations there was little hope.

N^o II.

D

Bleeding

Bleeding indeed was fatal in these cases ; and I am afraid the medicines usually given in the first attacks of all fevers, had proved not less fatal. The disease was of the putrid kind : the same fever raged at the same time in Germany : and while we died by bleeding, and by chemical medicines ; they lived by Butterburr.

We are threatened with a heavier visitation now ; our crimes call it from Heaven ! the Almighty pardon us ! and preserve us from it ! but if that greatest of all calamities should come, there are few things from which we may expect so great relief, as from this herb. This is no new thought, or hasty observation. The Greeks used it with the greatest success ; and it were happy if their practice were more followed : and the very name of the plant among the Germans, is Pestilence Wort.

Whether for common fevers, or for this ; for putrid fevers, or for what is called the fore-throat, with ulcers ; which ulcers are indeed only one symptom of a putrid fever, however otherwise



Character
Genericus

Tanacetum vulgare
Common Tanzy

wise the matter has been spoken of; the method of using the Butterburr, is this.

Lay open the earth about the root; and it will be found to consist of an oval body, sending out long, thick fibres: throw away the fibres, and cut the oval body of the root through, to see if it be found. 'Tis of a whitish colour; of a pleasant, fragrant, spicy smell; and a warm aromatic bitter taste: soft and tender to the touch; and juicy.

Wash off the dirt from this; and slice thin an ounce of it: set on some soft water to boil: put the roots into a new earthen pipkin; and pour upon them a quart of the water, boiling hot. Let this stand till it is quite cold, no longer: then pour it clear off; add a quarter of a pint of mountain wine, and a little fine sugar. Let about a quarter of a pint of this be taken once in four hours: the spirits will be raised; the horrid anguish that attends these fevers, and announces their danger, will be soon removed; a kindly gentle sweat, not violent, will follow;

every bad symptom will disappear : and the patient will recover.

If in the worst of cases, a boil should appear under the arms, or elsewhere, be assured that on its coming to ripeness, depends the hope of life; and to promote that, use the same root externally.

Make a common poultice of bread and milk ; and to half a pint basin of this, add a quarter of a pound of Butterburr root, bruised, but not boiled ; add also a little salad oil ; and apply this carefully : keep it warm by many doubled cloths ; and renew it often.

The patient will thus have all the chance of life, the nature of the case admits.

Will you have more authority ? receive it : for confidence in truth is half a cure. Dioscorides, the Father of Botanic Medicine, recommends Butterburr plainly enough for this outward use : and we should probably have read with him its praises also internally, if all stood right in the copies ; but (to our irreparable injury)

jury) that confusion of names, which I have laboured so much here to get men to avoid ; took place even so early. This plant and Colocasia, an herb as different, as difference there could be, excepting only in the form and outline of the leaf, were confounded in one name of Petasites.

Theophrastus, the Parent of Botanic knowledge ; called the Butterburr Petasites, because its leaf resembled the round hat of the antient Theffalians ; which they called Petasis ; and in the time from him to Dioscorides, the Ægyptian Colocasian Water Lilly, having a round leaf also, obtained also the same name.

As both plants grew in watery places, the confusion became more fixed : but still, when sudorific virtue is attributed to Colocasia, I think that all the praise belongs to Butterburr. Galen has signified his opinion plainly, by placing it according to his method among simple medicines, warm in the third degree.

The excellent Fuchsius is most exprefs; and

records its virtues as wonderful * in Pestilential fevers : and this he speaks not from tradition ; but his own experience. Shall we go on ?—But were it needful to prove the Sun gives light ; 'tis scarce less certain, or less obvious, that this root, beyond all things else, cures Pestilential Fevers.

2. PETASITES ELATIOR.

TALL BUTTERBURR.

Plate 18. Fig. 2.

The cluster of Flowers is long ; and they stand loose.

This like the former, grows in our wet grounds, and has all the particularities of its appearance : 'tis a Perennial that sends up its loose flowers in Spring ; its leaves long after them.

The Stalk is as thick as a man's thumb, of a pale flesh colour, and leafless ; only some thin films hang about it as in the preceding.

The Leaves are of an enormous magnitude,

* Experimento comprobatum est radicem Petasitidis mirifice conferre pestilentialibus febribus.

rugged on the surface, and of a pale green colour, with whitish ribs.

The Flowers are whitish, with a faint dash of flesh colour.

They blow in March.

The Root of this has the taste and flavour of the former kind ; but with more bitterness. Its qualities are nearly the same ; but the other is to be preferred. However the two herbs have been used indiscriminately : and this is in many places the more common. In a meadow near the late Sir William Bowyer's, at Denham, there grows a great quantity.

H E R B S

With a tubulated Flower, growing in a
Cup composed of many rows of
Scales.

I.

T A N A C E T U M.

T A N Z Y.

The Cup is an half oval. Its Scales stand upright, and are placed close, and compact; and they are thin and sharp pointed.

I. TANACETUM VULGARE.

COMMON TANZY.

Plate 19.

The Leaves are winged; and the small leaves are deeply cut in.

This Herb is not only common in our gardens; but wild on the high grounds, and dry pastures

pastures, in Durham ; and some other parts of England. 'Tis a Perennial, and a well looking Plant.

The Stalk is upright, branchy, of a light green, and a yard high.

The Leaves are of a bright, and pleasing green, and of a very fragrant smell : it is not coarse as that of the Tanzy common in our gardens, but a pleasing aromatic.

The Flowers are large, and of a bright yellow.

They blow in July and August.

Notwithstanding that the Tanzy of our gardens, is originally the same plant with this ; they differ widely in their taste and flavour ; and in this we see the Swiss opinion of the Saracens Confound in some degree supported : 'tis certain, they will not use that plant when it has grown in a garden. This Tanzy is a very pleasant herb, and worth our notice, with preference, where it is to be had : but where it is not, the other may be taken in its place.

It is an agreeable bitter; a carminative, and a destroyer of worms: and 'tis in this last capacity that it is principally to be regarded.

No complaint is so frequent; and few bring on so much mischief: beside the more common and obvious disorders which they occasion; a wasting, even to death, and Putrid Fevers sometimes accompany, and indeed arise from them: and oftener than is thought, they are the cause of Epilectic Fits. The medicines given against them are for the most part ineffectual; and many of them mischievous. Hellebore has brought on Convulsions; and every one knows the danger of Mercurials.

Besides the greater mischiefs of these latter medicines, 'tis fit the world should be reminded that half the defective teeth in our young people, are owing to Mercurials given when children.

To supersede these, Nature has afforded us
 5 this

this herb in plenty : and Tragus, Hoffman, Et-muller, and Andry; names, one of which were sufficient in this case, join in the account of its thus destroying worms. But that is not all; they agree in its innocence and safety: and in this farther praise; that by strengthening the stomach, and preventing the production of slimy humours in the bowels which gives these creatures harbour and support, it hinders also their return.

The Flowers are the part to be used, and they should be given in powder: but there requires care in the collecting them to obtain all their virtue. Clip off a quantity of Tanzy flowers close to the stalk, before they are over blown: do this in the middle of a dry day; and spread them on the bottom of a hair sieve turned upside down; shake them often about, and let the wind blow thro' them; but keep them from the sun. When they are perfectly dry let them be powdered; and of this powder give six, eight, ten, or twelve grains at night; and again early in the morning.

II.

C O N Y Z A.

PLOWMAN'S SPIKENARD.

The Cup is oblong and rugged ; the Scales of it are sharp pointed ; and they stand wide, and bend out.

I. CONYZA SQUARROSA.

PLOWMAN'S SPIKENARD.

Plate 20.]

The Leaves are broad lanced.

This is a Biennial ; a coarse, and but ill-looking plant : we see it by road sides, and in waste places, upon high and dry grounds ; but not very common.

The Stalk rises to two foot and a half high ;
and

Character
Genericus



Conyza Squarrosa
Plowmans Spikenard

Character Genericus



Eupatorium cannabinum
Dutch Agrimony

and is of a ruddy brown ; brittle, dry, and branchy toward the top.

The Leaves are rugged on the surface, of a coarse dead green, and a little dented about the edges.

The Flowers are of a dull yellow, and stand in a close tuft, at the tops on the stalks.

They blow in August.

The Leaves, when bruised, send forth a quick, and aromatic scent: and to the taste they are bitterish, with some sharpness.

Such taste and flavour cannot but bespeak some medicinal qualities ; nor do the accounts which authors have given of its virtues, contradict them : but they should be more ascertained. The old Tragus, (commonly very faithful) recommends it to promote the menses : and indeed an innocent medicine of that kind is so desirable ; and the obvious qualities of this plant are so promising, that I should recommend a very weak tea of it for careful trial. This might be watched with
atten-

attention in its effects; and made stronger when it is found that might be borne.

The caution is needful; for Cordus, a careful observer, says the herb is so acrid and hot as to make the mouth sore.

Some strength is required in such a medicine; and perhaps this has it. Where there is great efficacy, as in steel medicines, there is also great power of mischief: and we should wish to have many different things, to supersede their use.

Dioscorides gives great praise to Baccharis; attributing to it warm and attenuating qualities. It would be worth a very careful attention if it were possible we could by any means be sure this was the Baccharis he meant: but unhappily there is here that great confusion before lamented about the names of some of the plants, of which he had experience.

We have been falling into the same mischief
now;

now ; and all knowledge has been fading before it. I hope this publication may have its use in stopping the progress of a custom, which must in time destroy every attempt to help mankind, by the most innocent medicines. The greatest sorrow is that the most respected names have given too much countenance to this practice. Linnæus, worthy of all praise, yet not without his faults, has of late given the names of Dioscorides's plants, to new kinds found only in America. If such a method be not stopped, good night to all.

III.

EUPATORIUM.

DUTCH AGRIMONY.

The Cup is conic, its Scales are lanced, they are unequal in size, and they stand strait upright.

1. EUPATORIUM CANNABINUM.

COMMON DUTCH AGRIMONY.

The Leaves are fingered,

This

This is a Perennial water-plant, a tall, specious, and very handsome one, that edges our brooks and rivulets, in most places.

The Stalk is red, and grows to four foot high, upright and branchy.

The Leaves are of a bright and lively green, soft to the touch, and disposed with a handsome regularity.

The Flowers are small, but innumerable ; they are crowded together in a compact head, and are of a beautiful rose-colour.

They blow in August.

The Root is of an acrid, bitter, and unpleasant taste : and it will purge. But it operates roughly, vomiting as well as purging : so that we have many better.

It has however been recommended in Dropsies, and the Jaundice. Externally, it has indeed its use : I have seen very bad sore legs cured by bathing and fomenting them with a decoction of this Plant.

I N D E X

O F

P L A N T S.

A.			
A Chillea	—	—	63
Agrimony, Dutch	—	—	105
Agrimony, Hemp	—	—	85
B.			
Bidens	—	—	85
Butterbur	—	—	89
C.			
Confound, Saracen's	—	—	80
Conyza	—	—	102
D.			
Dutch Agrimony	—	—	105
E.			
Erigeron	—	—	72
Eupatorium	—	—	105
F.			
Feverfew	—	—	50
Feverfew, Sweet	—	—	50
Feverfew, Field	—	—	62
N°. II.	E	G. Golden	

INDEX of PLANTS.

G.

Golden Rod ————— 68

Groundsell ————— 75

H.

Hemp Agrimony ————— 85

M.

Matricaria ————— 50

Millefolium ————— 63

P.

Petasite ————— 89

Plowman's Spikenard ————— 102

Ptarmica ————— 66

S.

Saracen's Confound ————— 80

Senecio ————— 75

Simpson ————— 72

Sneezewort ————— 66

Solidago ————— 68

Spikenard, Plowman's ————— 102

T.

Tanacetum ————— 98

Tanzy ————— 98

V.

Virga Aurea ————— 68

Y.

Yarrow ————— 63

INDEX

I N D E X

O F

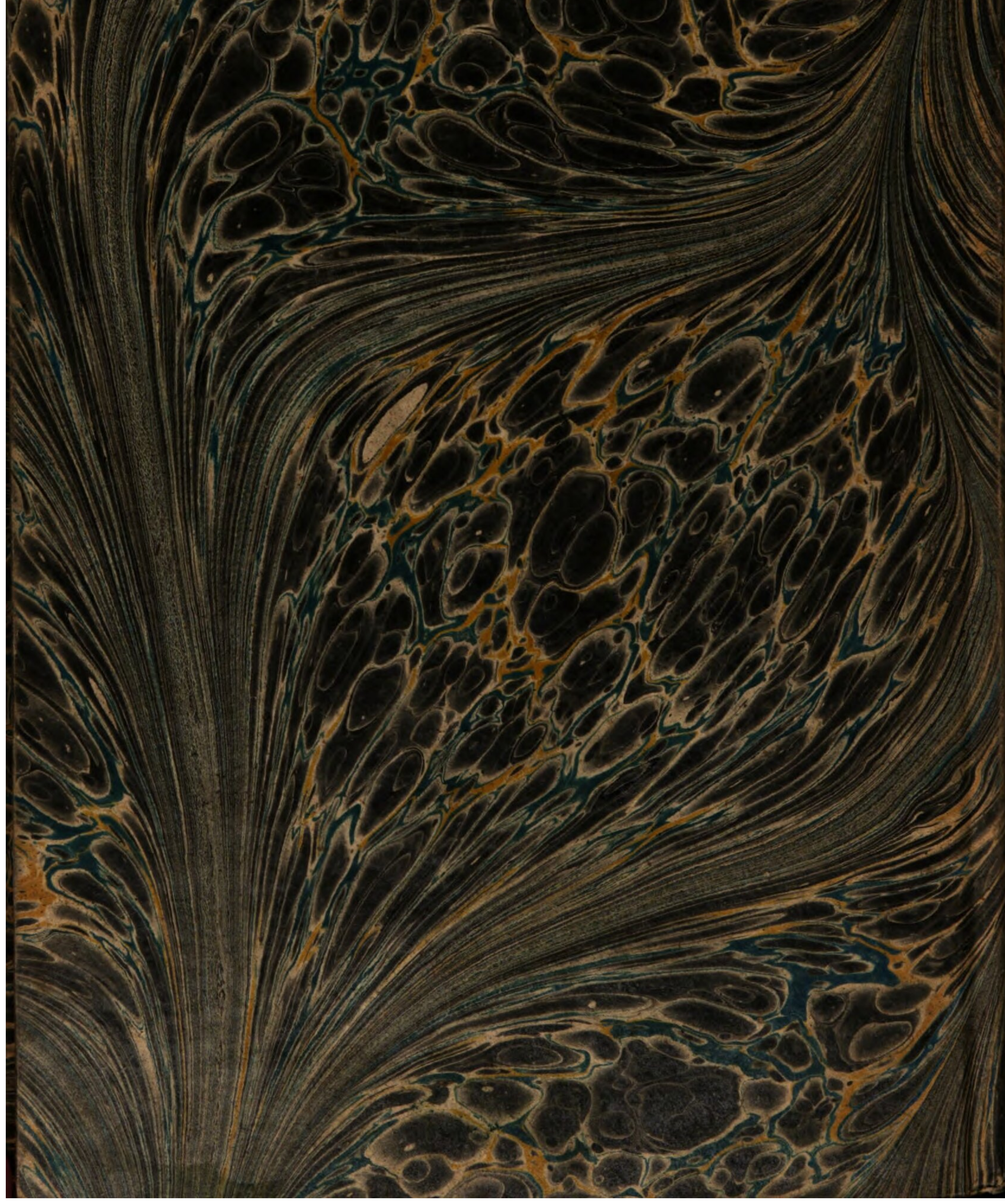
D I S E A S E S, &c.

A.			
A	Gues	—	66
	Arquebusade Water	—	81
B.			
Boils	—	—	63
Breast, Disorders of	—	—	73
Bruises	—	—	80
D.			
Dropsies	—	—	106
F.			
Fevers	—	—	91
G.			
Grass-ground, to improve	—	—	65
Gravel	—	—	69
H.			
Hysterics	—	—	78
I.			
Inflammations, external	—	—	76
Jaundice	—	—	106

M. Menfes

INDEX of DISEASES, &c.

	M.		
Menses	_____	_____	103
	N.		
Nose, to make bleed	_____	_____	67
	P.		
Pains	_____	_____	75
Pasturage, to encrease	_____	_____	65
Piles	_____	_____	66
Plague	_____	_____	91
	S.		
Sciatica	_____	_____	84
Stomach, weak	_____	_____	60
Stone	_____	_____	69
Swellings	_____	_____	63, 76
	T.		
Throat, sore	_____	_____	83
Tumors, to ripen	_____	_____	63
	V.		
Vomit	_____	_____	78
Vulnerary	_____	_____	69, 80
	W.		
Water, Arquebusade	_____	_____	81
Worms	_____	_____	91
Wounds	_____	_____	80



Hill, John

Virtues of British Herbs ...

London 1772

M.med. 464

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